

## REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The claims are 12 to 15 with claims 13 and 14 being withdrawn from consideration.

Claims 12 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Tanaka et al. (U.S. 5,076,864).

This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Tanaka et al. relate to a multilayer printed wiring board, and in this respect alone, is clearly distinguished from the separator for electrical and electronic parts of the present invention.

Tanaka et al. teach or suggest nothing about a separator for electrical and electronic parts, as will now be explained.

It is mentioned in Tanaka et al., column 3, lines 10 to 34, that materials which can be used for laminating the internal layer boards include prepregs obtained from a reinforcing material or a base material such as glass woven fabrics formed of silica glass and aramid fabric, and a matrix resin such as epoxy resins.

This prepreg, which comprises a reinforcing material or a base material embedded in a matrix resin, is very different from and unsuggestive of the separator of the present invention. A prepreg is not porous (if porous, it could not be used as a multilayer printed wiring board which Tanaka et al. intend to provide), and is substantially different from the separator of the present invention which is porous e.g. like aramid paper. In this regard, note the "sucking height" requirement of the present claims.

The "sucking height", <sup>as</sup> is explained on pages 5 to 7 of the present specification, means <sup>that</sup> the separator of the present invention sucks up a given amount of a liquid such as an electrolyte within a certain period of time and is defined by the formula recited in the claims. ✓

Thus, the separator of the present claims must suck considerable amount of liquid in accordance with the formula recited in the claims and it is clear that the material of Tanaka et al. does not have <sup>this</sup> the essential property. ✓

Tanaka et al. only teach that aramid fabric is usable as a reinforcing material or a base material for prepregs, and disclose or suggest nothing about aramid paper, aramid non-woven fabric or aramid porous film.

Furthermore, Tanaka et al. only show glass woven fabrics formed of silica glass as an example of a reinforcing or base material for prepregs, and teach or suggest nothing of coating material such as aramid paper with silica.

It is apparent that Tanaka et al. utterly fail to disclose the separator of the present invention.

Official Action, page 4, last paragraph states:

" . . . having been made both separators ( . . . ) of the same construction material, then, it can be fairly argued that the separator of the prior art must have the same properties."

In reply, anyone skilled in the art, however, could easily understand, without experimentation, that, two separators which are made from the same construction material may indeed have different capillarity dependent on density, porosity, etc.

Therefore, it is untenable to hold that the presently recited "sucking height" is an inherent property or characteristic of the reference materials.

This is particularly true where the reference, as here, employs prepregs which are not porous, as discussed above.

Claims 12 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as anticipated by Curcio et al. (U.S. 2002/0179334).

This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

Curcio et al. (like Tanaka et al.) relate to a multilayer circuit board or a printed wiring board or a chip-carrier material, and is technically irrelevant to the separator of the present invention which is defined in the present specification, page 2, lines 29 to 34 and in the present claims.

Curcio et al. only teach that an aramid paper impregnated with a thermosetting resin is usable as a base for circuit board or printed wiring board (Curcio et al., page 1, right column, paragraph [0029]), and teach or suggest no idea of coating aramid paper with silica or the like with a view to raising the hydrophilicity of aramid paper.

The board which is used in Curcio et al. is a solid dielectric body, and is substantially different from and unsuggestive of the separator of the present invention.

Both the layer of Tanaka et al. and that of Curcio et al. are solid (not porous), and have a "sucking height" of "0".

It is evident, therefore, that Curcio et al. fails to anticipate or make obvious the present invention.

Claims 12 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Japanese publication JP 2000-125499 (hereinafter referred to as JP '499).

This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

JP '499 relates to a fixing member for insulated coil which comprises aramid fiber paper laminated with two highly thermoconductive silicone rubber sheets in a sandwich-like manner, and has nothing to do with the separator for electrical and electronic parts of the present invention.

Also, the fixing member of JP '499 has a "sucking height" of "0", and is therefore very different from and unsuggestive of the present invention.

It is evident therefore that JP '499 fails to anticipate or render obvious the present claims.

Claims 12 and 15 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by Butman Jr. et al. (U.S. 4,473,765).

This rejection is also respectfully traversed.

Butman Jr. et al. disclose a grading layer for a slot armor in an electric machine which comprises aramid web and, provided on one surface thereof, a layer of silicon carbide powder in a resin binder.

The grading layer of Butman Jr. et al. is very different from and unsuggestive of the separator which is defined by the present claims.

Furthermore, silicon carbide which is applied to one surface of aramid paper in Butman Jr. et al. is substantially different from and unsuggestive of the silicon compound (selected from silica gel, silica sol, silica and zeolite) which is defined in the present claims.

It is apparent that the layer of Butman Jr. et al. does not have a coating which is conducive to sucking up large amounts of electrolytes.

It is therefore evident that Butman Jr. et al. fails to anticipate or suggest the present invention.

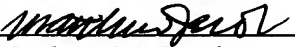
In sum, the references teach materials which are unsuitable for battery separators in that they would be expected to suck up little or no electrolytes as can be seen from the disclosed function of the reference materials. Therefore, the "sucking height" recitation and related recitations in the present claims clearly distinguish over the prior art.

No further issues remaining, allowance of this application is respectfully requested.

If the Examiner has any comments or proposals for expediting prosecution, please contact undersigned at the telephone number below.

Respectfully submitted,

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